Alleged Irregularities in DDA

4409. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:
SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "DDA has many houses built on paper only' appearing in the Hindustan Times dated September, 14, 1991;

(b) if so, the salient points brought out in the news report and the extent to which the same have been found to be correct;

(c) the action taken in the matter; and

(d) whether no construction work was done during 1990-91 but Rs. 90 crore was shown as having been spent on development work and Rs. 250 crore on construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPEMNT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The salient points brought out in the Newspaper report are the following:-

i) Though money has been spent, houses have not been constructed.

ii) Details of expenditure of nearly Rs. 30 crores from the workers Providend Fund are not available.

iii) Allotments have not been made under the Ambedkar Awas Yojana and registration fee has not been refunded to those who were not given allotment.

iv) DDA Rules were being changed to provide for direct recruitment from outside upto the level of Asstt. Director, affecting promotion opportunities.

v) A CBI Enquiry be made into the matter of "misappropriation". The issues mentioned in the news report are being looked into.

Floor Cleaning Machines

4410. SHIR R. SRIDHARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether floor cleaning machines are produced in India for domestic market;

(b) if so, the firms that are involved in this production; and

(c) the availability of foreign market for these goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) Vacuum cleaners are being manufactured but floor scrubbing machines are not being manufactured.

(b) M/s Eureka Forbes Ltd., Bhimtal and M/s Facit Asia, Madras are manufacturing vacumm cleaners.

(c) There are prospects of exports of vacuum cleaners to the neighbouring countries.

Increase in Rate of Interest on Provident Fund

4411. SHRIMATI SUSHEELA GOPALAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to enhance the rate of interest on the provident fund contributions of the workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (c). The Central Government on the recommendation of the CBT, EPF periodically declares the rate of interest to be credited to the accounts of PF Subscribers. The rate of interest at present is 12% per annum. Keeping in view the overall interest of national economy the present interest rate is considered adequate.

Closure of Durgapur unit of HFC

4412. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to close down the Durgapur Unit of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government propose to revive this unit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). In 1988, the consultants had recommended revamp/rehabilitation of the operating units (except Namrup-III) of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation. For the Durgapur unit, the cost involved was Rs. 171.38 cores, which was updated to Rs. 213.51 cores as in February, 1990. Since very large investments were involved, no final decision was taken.

Reprocessing Technology for Plutonium

4413. SHRI DHARAMPAL SINGH MALIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether plutonium is to be separated from nuclear waste and this process involve very high cost;

(b) whether this reprocessing technology cannot be kept secret from the rest of the world;

(c) if so, the names of the countries in the world which at present have this facility;

(d) whether Iran also has such a technology; and

(e) if not, the reasons for not supplying a 10 MW reactor by India to Iran and thereby entering into high technology exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) For any application requiring use of Plutonium, reprocessing of spent fuel discharged from the Nuclear Reactors, is a pre-requisite. Indian experience in reprocessing shows that the costs in India are significantly lower than those quoted in developing countries pursuing this technology.

(b) In view of proliferation concerns related to plutonium, the reprocessing technology is not open to international cooperation though the basic chemical process flowsheet itself is well known.

(c) Very few countries in the world are known to be having large scale commercial reprocessing technology. Besides India, USA, UK, France, USSR, Germany, Japan, Belgium and Italy are known to be having